

Attorney Docket No.: AF-0022
Inventors: Walker et al.
Serial No.: 10/510,557
Filing Date: October 7, 2004
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REMARKS

Claims 1-20 are pending in the instant patent application. Claims 1-20 have been subjected to the following Restriction Requirement:

Group I, claims 1-12, 14-17 and 18-20, drawn to a method for inhibiting clathrate hydrate plug formation; and

Group II, claim 13, drawn to a method of designing and selecting clathrate hydrate inhibitors.

The Examiner suggests that the inventions listed as Groups I and II do not relate to a single general inventive concept under PCT Rule 13.1 because, under PCT Rule 13.2, they lack the same or corresponding special technical features. In particular, the Examiner suggests that Groups I and II have different modes of operation and end points.

Applicants respectfully traverse this Restriction Requirement.

It is respectfully pointed out that all claims were searched during the PCT phase of the instant application. Accordingly, the Examiner's suggestion that Groups I and II should be restricted based upon lack of unity contradicts the search conducted by the PCT Examiner. Further, since a search of claim 13 has already been conducted, inclusion of Group II in the instant application places no additional burden on the Examiner. See MPEP 803.

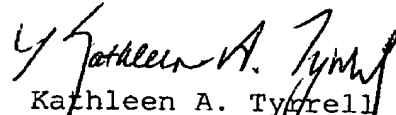
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Thus, reconsideration of this Restriction Requirement and prosecution of all pending claims is respectfully requested.

In an earnest effort to be completely responsive to this Restriction Requirement, however, Applicants elect to prosecute Group I, claims 1-12 and 14-17 and 18-20, with traverse.

Applicants believe that the foregoing comprises a full and complete response to this Restriction Requirement.

Respectfully submitted,



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